## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PATENT APPLICATION

entitled: Processes for the preparation of novel collagen-based supports for tissue

engineering, and biomaterials obtained

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A composite product is disclosed as a collagen support comprising at least one porous collagen layer covered on at least one side with an essentially compact collagen membrane consisting either of a collagen film prepared by drying a collagen gel, preferably in air or a gaseous fluid, or of a very highly compressed collagen sponge. At least one of the two layers, i.e. the porous layer and the essentially compact membrane, may comprise normal, genetically modified or malignant living cells originating particularly from young or elderly subjects. This composite product is used as a collagen support for the manufacture of artificial skin intended especially for performing in vitro tests on the efficacy of potentially active substances or for reconstructing damaged areas of skin in vivo.

Figure 1